

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 DODE-00 EUR-08 SS-14 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 PRS-01 MMO-01 /045 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO: JWKIMBALL:ML

APPROVED BY AF - AMB. SCHAUFELLE

AF/I - LTCOL WIRKUS

DOD/ISA - MS. CHARLES (INFORMED)

PM - G. VEST

AF/E - RS BARRETT

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R 210122Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 208383

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MILI, US, SE, KE

SUBJECT: P-3 FLIGHTS

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S VISIT TO KENYA, DOD(ISA) HAS INFORMED US THAT NAVY IS PREPARED TO CONDUCT ROUTINE P-3 OPERATIONS TO KENYA AT A FREQUENCY OF APPROXIMATELY SIX FLIGHTS PER QUARTER CONTINGENT ON STATE APPROVAL AND KENYAN DESIRES. ACCORDING DOD, FLIGHTS WOULD ORIGINATE IN DIEGO GARCIA, WOULD REMAIN OVERNIGHT IN KENYA FOR REFUELING AND CREW REST, AND COULD START IN OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1976 QUARTER.

2. DEPT SEES SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH SHOULD BE WEIGHED IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE P-3 FLIGHTS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE DO

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NOT WISH TO RAISE US MILITARY VISIBILITY IN KENYA IN MANNER WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE REACTION AMONG OPPONENTS OF PRESENT RE-

GIME, WHICH IN TURN MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT US RELATIONS WITH IT OR ITS SUCCESSORS AS WELL AS THEIR STABILITY. NOR WOULD WE WISH THIS NEW EXTENSION OF ROUTINE US MILITARY ACTIVITY INTO EAST AFRICAN AREA TO STIMULATE BACKLASH AMONG OTHER AFRICANS WHICH WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO OTHER US INTERESTS IN CONTINENT AND POSSIBLY TO GOK ITSELF. ON OTHER HAND, WE BELIEVE APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF P-3 FLIGHTS COULD BE HELPFUL

IN REASSURING KENYATTA AND OTHER MODERATES OF OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE AREA AND WILLINGNESS TO STAY THE COURSE. HOWEVER WE WOULD NOT WISH MAGNITUDE OF INITIAL USG REQUEST TO PROVIDE GOK EXCUSE TO BACK OFF FROM KENYATTA'S APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE NOW THAT PRESSURES OF DISPUTE WITH UGANDA MAY BE EASING. WE ALSO BELIEVE USG SHOULD HAVE CLEARLY IN MIND POSSIBILITIES FOR ADDITIONAL P-3 OPERATIONS IN AREA (E.G. FUTURE USE OF SEYCHELLES) BEFORE DECIDING ON APPROACH TO GOK.

3. WE UNDERSTAND DOD WOULD PREFER TO HAVE GOK'S GENERAL AUTHORIZATION TO USE BOTH MOMBASA AND NAIROBI/EASTLEIGH. WHILE LATTER OFFERS BETTER FUEL AND SERVICE FACILITIES AS WELL AS CONTINGENCY ACCESS TO USG COMMUNICATIONS, MOMBASA MAY HELP PROVIDE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS PATTERN OF OVER-WATER COVERAGE. INDIVIDUAL CLEARANCE REQUESTS WOULD REFLECT CHOICE OF ONE OR OTHER DEPENDING ON REQUIREMENTS OF SPECIFIC MISSIONS. FUTURE USE OF MOMBASA WOULD ALSO DEPEND ON EXISTENCE OF ADEQUATE TURN AROUND FACILITIES, INCLUDING FUEL, BUT WE DO NOT WISH TO CREATE NEED FOR PERMANENT US PRESENCE THERE.

4. FYI. CINCPAC HAS RECENTLY BEGUN TO USE MASIRAH FOR P-3 OPERATIONS AT RATE OF SIX FLIGHTS PER QUARTER. QUESTION OF USAGE AFTER BRITISH LEAVE IN MARCH 1977 IS STILL OPEN WITHIN USG. END FYI.

5. BEFORE REQUESTING EMBASSY TO SEEK GOK AGREEMENT ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR A SUITABLE NUMBER OF P-3 FLIGHTS, STATE AND DOD WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING YOUR COMMENTS ON FOREGOING AS WELL AS ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, MILITARY POLICIES, OVERFLIGHT AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE208383  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JWKIMBALL:ML  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760321-0342  
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**Office:** ORIGIN PM  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** P-3 FLIGHTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MILI, US, SE, KE  
**To:** NAIROBI  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006